

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Bronner, Ph.D.

Business Education Program

New York University

239 Greene Street Suite 300

New York, NY 10003

(212) 998-5486

michael.bronner@nyu.edu

THE AGNEW GROUP FORMED

To Consider the Future of Business Education

Concern over the future of business education as we know it and practice it is growing in these early years of the 21st Century. We are all well intentioned as we go about our daily jobs, delivering and administering quality programs. Yet we are fighting local, state, and national forces that threaten us. Thought and action are needed by each of us at our “grass roots” levels to turn the tide and bring relevance and prominence to our programs once again. This is a battle that we can no longer fight unarmed or without extensive networking and support. A coordinated national approach is needed.

Over the years we have seen many efforts to try to work proactively toward the future of business education. In 1985, for example, An Action Agenda for Business Education emerged from one “group think” activity. Today, a new group is at work, one called The Agnew Group. This group is sponsored by the Peter L. Agnew Foundation which is housed at New York University and is managed by a group of trustees, one of whom is Michael Bronner. Michael, along with Burt Kaliski of Southern New Hampshire University, are the conveners of the group. Other members of the group are Peter Meggison (Massasoit Community College, MA), Donna Cochrane (PA retired), Sharon Lund O’Neil (University of Houston, TX), Pauline Newton (Presentation High School, CA), Marcia Anderson (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale), Judy Lambrecht (University of Minnesota), Bridget O’Connor (New York University), Mary Ellen Oliverio (Pace University, NY), Bonnie Sibert (Nebraska State Education Department), Dennis Labonte (Utah State University), and Connie Forde (Mississippi State University).

The purpose of the group is clear: to prepare a white paper on what must be done to ensure the survival and promote the growth of business education in the 21st Century. We met for three days in New York City during the summer of 2003 and are now in the

midst of two specific activities. The first is extensive data collection. For example, we are collecting enrollment data in business education by state, information about yearbook contributions and legislative trends, and organizations to which business educators can belong. Ultimately, we will summarize our information into a written publication.

Our second activity is to speak to as many of our professional organizations as we are able to over this school year. To date, we have presented our plans at state and regional business education conferences, including EBEA, and presented at DPE's national conference in Indianapolis this November. We also hosted an open forum at NBEA in Chicago in April as well as discussed our findings at a more formal presentation at the NABTE business session at that conference. We are scheduled to present at EBEA's regional conference in October in MA and offer sessions at the 'Teacher's Café' at NBEA's 2005 conference in Anaheim, CA. We are asking all business educators for their help in sending us any information that you may believe is of relevance to our efforts. If you are aware of interesting programs or initiatives or state legislative efforts or research projects that we should consider, please email to either Dr. Michael Bronner (michael.bronner@nyu.edu) or Dr. Burt Kaliski (b.kaliski@snhu.edu).

#####